



## **NEWS RELEASE**

For immediate release

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# **City Manager Bunting named national innovator**

Hampton City Manager Mary Bunting has been named a White House Local Innovation Champion of Change.

Bunting is one of 13 municipal innovators from across the nation who have committed themselves to creating a more open and innovative government through entrepreneurship. They will be honored Tuesday at the White House.

She was nominated for the honor by Hampton Mayor Molly Ward, who cited the “I Value” budget campaign as a model other localities can adopt. Bunting decided to change the traditional model of budgeting to proactively gather public input at the beginning of the process, rather than waiting for reaction after the budget is drafted.

In her nomination, Ward wrote: “Hampton City Manager Mary Bunting believes that more public participation leads to better government, and she has demonstrated that during three years of difficult city budgets. Her “I Value” campaign has centered on getting residents to discuss priorities for the city’s annual budget, using traditional in-person meetings and reaching out to create community discussions virtually. The discussions have focused on core values for city services and avoided rhetoric.”

Ward also cited Bunting’s use of technology to dramatically increase the number of people who can be involved in the decision-making process, from in-person keypad technology to online polling and from small neighborhood chats to online Q&As.

Bunting said, “I am honored to have been selected as a White House Champion of Change, “but the honor really belongs to all the Hampton residents and staff that came together to ensure local budget choices are understood by the larger community.”

The Champions of Change program was created as a part of President Obama’s Winning the Future initiative. Each week, a different sector is highlighted and groups of Champions, ranging from educators to entrepreneurs to community leaders, are recognized for the work they are doing to serve and strengthen their communities.

Details from the White House follow:

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of Communications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 21, 2012

**White House Highlights “Champions of Change” in Local Innovation**

WASHINGTON, DC – On Tuesday, September 25, the White House will welcome 13 Local Innovation Champions of Change who have committed themselves to creating a more open and innovative government through entrepreneurship. Whether making local government information and public data more accessible; creating local environments to encourage and support entrepreneurs; or developing workforce programs to provide residents with skills for the high-tech economy, these champions of change work tirelessly to build a better future for the citizens they serve, create jobs in their community, and ensure more efficient and effective government.

As a result of their efforts, citizens across the country have access to a more transparent government, more opportunities for participation in the activities of their city or county, and tools that catalyze new types of collaboration between the public, private, non-profit, and citizen sectors of the local community.

“I am constantly inspired by the hard work of the women and men who serve their country by working in government,” said Todd Park, Assistant to the President and U.S. Chief Technology Government Officer. “Entrepreneurs at the local and state level are leading the way with so many innovative solutions to some of the most vexing problems facing America today. As I work to make the President’s innovation agenda a reality, I look forward to even more projects such as the ones honored today, so we can truly out innovate the rest of the world.”

These leaders showcase the amazing movement of innovation in government across America. In addition to celebrating success, the Champions of Change event provides a great opportunity to share innovative city government products, services, and business models with other cities and discuss how to scale these innovations to others, challenging all cities across the nation to similar levels of improvement.

The Champions of Change program was created as a part of President Obama’s Winning the Future initiative. Each week, a different sector is highlighted and groups of Champions, ranging from educators to entrepreneurs to community leaders, are recognized for the work they are doing to serve and strengthen their communities.

**Phil Bertolini**  
**Oakland County, Michigan**

Phil Bertolini is the CIO and Deputy County Executive for Oakland County, Michigan. Bertolini is a vocal advocate for enterprise solutions in government, cross-boundary resource sharing, and inter-jurisdictional cooperation. He has directed the development of unique sustainable government technology programs and created models that can be implemented by other governments interested in improving operations while containing costs. Bertolini has traveled extensively to speak about eGovernment best practices and has authored a growing collection of resources to help other organizations modernize IT within today's rapidly changing technology landscape.

### **Mary Bunting**

#### **Hampton, Virginia**

Mary Bunting is City Manager of Hampton, VA, where she has served in various capacities for 22 years. The power of community was demonstrated to her when local scholarships helped Mary achieve an undergraduate education at Johns Hopkins University and master's degree in public administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. Since being appointed City Manager in 2010, Mary has focused on translating complex issues into everyday values making them more accessible, and on reaching people through additional channels – such as social media and the internet – allowing residents to become involved on their own schedule and in a way that's less intimidating than speaking out at a City Council meeting.

### **Adel Ebeid**

#### **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

As the City's first Chief Innovation Officer (CIO), Adel Ebeid, is responsible for leading the City's IT innovation strategy to advance the City's digital quality of life. A passion for using technology to bring people closer to their government, Adel continues to be a strong advocate for open data and government transparency. In addition to overseeing the City's IT innovation agenda, Adel is also responsible for the traditional IT portfolio that includes infrastructure services, application development and maintenance, Geographic Information Systems, public safety communications and the City's web presence. Prior to his appointment with the City of Philadelphia, Adel was the Chief Information and Technology Officer for the State of New Jersey until 2011. He also held leadership positions with the Motor Vehicle Commission as Chief Operating Officer where he led the development of New Jersey's first digital driver license, and CIO for Environmental Protection where he led the development of the NJ Environmental Management System (NJEMS) – a system that was later adopted by 8 other states as the platform of choice for the consolidation of environmental data.

### **Michael Flowers**

#### **New York, New York**

Michael P. Flowers is the Analytics Director for New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's Office of Policy and Strategic Planning. Mr. Flowers leads a team of data scientists in analyzing city data from over 20 city agencies to allocate its resources

quickly and efficiently to prevent fire, crime, safety hazards, and unhealthy conditions. Prior to joining the Bloomberg Administration, Mr. Flowers was Counsel to the U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations for the 110th and 111th Congress, where he led bipartisan investigations into off-shore tax haven abuses; failures in the mortgage-backed securitization market by U.S. investment and commercial banks and government agencies; and deceptive financial transactions by foreign governments. From March 2005 to December 2006, Mr. Flowers was Deputy Director of DOJ's Regime Crimes Liaison's Office in Baghdad, Iraq, supporting the investigations and trials of Saddam Hussein and other high-ranking members of his regime. From 2003 to 2005, Mr. Flowers was with Williams & Connolly LLP in Washington D.C., specializing in federal, state and local criminal investigations and regulatory actions. After a clerkship in federal district court in Philadelphia, Mr. Flowers began his career as a prosecutor with the Manhattan District Attorney's Office in 1999.

**Carolyn Hogg**  
**Fresno, California**

Carolyn T. Hogg has served as the Chief Information Officer for the City of Fresno for the past five years. Recognizing that a city is only as good as the region surrounding it, led her to partner with agencies outside of city hall to maximize public funds. Today, Carolyn and her team of partners such as the San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium, Office of Community and Economic Development at CSU Fresno, the USDA, and the Strong Cities/Strong Communities (SC2) Federal team are working together to bring wireless broadband to the rural area which will be used for smarter farming, distance learning, tele-health, and sharing of open data and common applications used among all municipalities throughout the region to maximize public funds.

**Michele Hovet**  
**Arvada, Colorado**

Michele Hovet is currently a Deputy City Manager for the City of Arvada, Colorado. She also was the Chief Information Officer for Arvada for over 17 years. She is a board member for [OpenColorado.org](http://OpenColorado.org) and co-founder of Digital Distance Education Services of Colorado. She works with her local government peers in Colorado to collaborate on shared services and shared software, data transparency efforts by hosting two CityCamps and pushes for getting arts back in the classroom.

**Nigel Jacob & Chris Osgood**  
**Boston, Massachusetts**

Nigel Jacob & Chris Osgood co-chair the Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics. Mayor Thomas M. Menino founded the Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics in 2010 as Boston's civic innovation incubator.

With an extensive background in collaborative, citizen-facing technology projects, Nigel also serves as Mayor Menino's advisor on emerging technologies. In both of these roles,

Nigel works to develop new models of innovation for cities in the 21st century. Prior to joining the City of Boston in 2006, Nigel worked for and launched a series of technology start-ups in the Boston area.

During his decade of experience in city government, Chris has focused on designing and implementing new programs and policies that increase and improve collaboration between the public and the public sector. Before joining the City of Boston, Chris earned his MBA from Harvard after serving for 5 years in the NYC Parks & Recreation Department. He is both a City Year and Haverford College alum.

**Doug Matthews**  
**Austin, Texas**

Doug Matthews has spent the last 18 years working to improve local government's connections with their communities. A graduate of the University of Central Florida (BA, Journalism) and the University of South Florida (MPA), he worked in communications positions for three Florida communities before venturing to Austin as their Chief Communications Director. In Austin, he has been an active proponent for reinventing community engagement and resident communication, and has been a local champion for realizing new ways to innovate collaboratively with residents and the private sector. This has included launching new open-source tools, opening city data for public and developer use, and forging a strong partnership with Code for America. He hopes to add to the organization's innovation capacity in 2012 with the addition of an Office for Innovation, housed in the City Manager's Office.

**Jay Nath**  
**San Francisco, California**

Jay Nath is the Chief Innovation Officer for Mayor Ed Lee in the City of San Francisco. In this role, Nath is working with the technology community and the public to help reinvent government in the digital age. As part of this effort, he has formed partnerships with sf.citi, Code For America and other institutions to open the doors of government to create innovative solutions and spin off new businesses.

**John Tolva**

**Chicago, Illinois** John Tolva is the City of Chicago's first Chief Technology Officer, working for Mayor Rahm Emanuel. Tolva has overseen Mayor Emanuel's implementation of policy for open, participatory government for all Chicagoans. Tolva recently launched ServiceTracker, an online 311 system that increases City accountability and makes it easy for Chicagoans to track requests. Tolva is currently managing a project to expand high-speed connectivity throughout Chicago. Before joining the City, Tolva worked at IBM for over 13 years where he led the City Forward project, a public analytics site for city data worldwide. Tolva received an MS in Information Design and Technology from Georgia Tech in 1998. He lives in Chicago with his wife and three children.

**Ted Smith****Louisville, Kentucky**

Dr. Ted Smith is the Chief of Economic Growth & Innovation for Louisville Metro Government. Ted works to make local government a platform for innovation and entrepreneurship through open data and social impact economic development. Louisville, through these efforts, is a leader in using collective impact methods to deliver breakthrough ideas in healthcare, workforce development and sustainable living.

**Rob White****Livermore, California**

Rob White is the Director of Economic Development for the City of Livermore and the Interim CEO of the i-GATE Innovation Hub, a broad super-regional partnership that is focused on Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories/CA as economic engines. With over two decades of cross-sector experience, Rob is engaged in researching, assessing, and developing the ecosystem for regional innovation networks. Recognized by regional, federal and international organizations, Rob has been acknowledged as a thought leader in local government-led collaborative networks, public policy assessment in support of entrepreneurship, and economic development frameworks that focus on technology growth and innovation.

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